SECURITY MESSAGE TO U.S. CITIZENS

September 20, 2012

THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES IS TRANSMITTING THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION AS A PUBLIC SERVICE TO U.S. CITIZENS IN THE PHILIPPINES. PLEASE DISSEMINATE THIS MESSAGE TO ALL U.S. CITIZENS IN YOUR ORGANIZATION OR NEIGHBORHOOD. THANK YOU.

Philippine Groups Plan Demonstration on 40th Anniversary of

Martial Law Declaration

The U.S. Embassy wishes to inform U.S. citizens in the Philippines that various groups in Manila are expected to stage demonstrations on Friday, September 21, 2012, in commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the declaration of Martial Law in the Philippines. The demonstrations and/or marches may occur at various locations in Metro Manila, including the vicinity of the U.S. Embassy. As global reactions continue to certain anti-Islam videos and to violent attacks on U.S. missions worldwide, the U.S. Embassy urges U.S. citizens to exercise extra vigilance at all times.

The Embassy reminds U.S. citizens that even demonstrations that are meant to be peaceful can suddenly become violent and unpredictable. U.S. citizens should be alert, pay attention to local news media, and avoid demonstration areas if at all possible. The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority often identifies locations of affected areas at their website, www.mmda.gov.ph/192012-rerouting.html.

The U.S. Embassy also wishes to remind U.S. citizens of the continuing threat of terrorist actions and violence against U.S. citizens and interests throughout the world. In a message dated July 12, 2012, the Department of State recommends Worldwide Caution and reminds U.S. citizens that terrorism can occur anywhere.

We encourage all U.S. citizens in the Philippines to enroll with the Department of State's <u>Smart Traveler Enrollment Program</u> or at the U.S. Embassy in Manila. By enrolling, you can receive the Embassy's most recent security and safety updates during your trip. Enrolling also ensures that we can reach you, or your designated emergency points of contact, during an emergency. The U.S. Embassy is located at: 1201 Roxas Boulevard, Manila, Philippines, tel. 63-2-301-2000. The American Citizens Services (ACS) section's fax number is 63-2-301-2017, and

you may reach the ACS Section by email at <u>ACSinfoManila@state.gov</u>. The <u>ACS Section's website</u> includes consular information and the most recent messages to the U.S. citizen community in the Philippines.

U.S. citizens traveling in the region are encouraged to stay up to date on conditions across the globe by bookmarking the <u>Bureau of Consular Affairs</u> <u>website</u>, which contains the current <u>Travel Warnings</u> (including the <u>Travel Warnings</u> for the <u>Philippines</u>, dated June 14, 2012) and <u>Travel Alerts</u> as well as the <u>Worldwide Caution</u> of July 12, 2012. Follow us on <u>Twitter</u> and become a fan of the Bureau of Consular Affairs page on <u>Facebook</u> as well. You can also download our free <u>Smart Traveler iPhone App</u> to have travel information at your fingertips. If you don't have internet access, current information on safety and security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States, or for callers from other countries, a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).